STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

P U B L I C H E A L T H.

FOR THE YEAR

1946.

J. H. C. Eglinton,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. W. Herring,
Sanitary Inspector.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District for the year 1946.

The Ministry of Health in Circular 13/47 have requested that the annual report be prepared on the lines of that for 1945 as indicated in Circular 28/46 dated 11th February, 1946.

May I once again express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their courtesy, and my thanks to my colleagues for their loyalty and help.

One notes that there was a slight increase in the number of births (77/74) whereas there was a decrease in the number of deaths (51/63).

As in the rest of the country, Heart Disease and Cancer provided the largest quota of deaths and Heart Disease showed a decrease (20/28).

The number of deaths of infants under one year was the same as last year (2) but the number of births was rather more, there was therefore, a small decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate, 25.97 (27.12).

As regards Notifiable Infectious Disease, there was no epidemic during the year, as compared with last year, when there was a measles epidemic of 244 cases.

Small pox: From time to time during the year, notice was received from Port Health Authorities of 'passengers' proceeding to the Urban District from ships in which cases of smallpox had developed or been suspected. Vaccination was offered to these passengers who were inspected and kept under observation.

For the second year in succession no case of Puerperal Fever or Pyrexia was notified indicating a high standard of midwifery.

The importance of artificial immunisation against diphtheria is once again stressed. One is pleased to note that the only notification during the year was that of a carrier, which was sent to the Isolation Hospital as a safety measure. Incidentally this was the only case of Notifiable Infectious Disease sent to the hospital during the year.

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation up to the end of the year was 730 (7[illegible]) out of an estimated mid year population of 975 (1066) approximately 76%. (The figures in brackets refer to the year 1945).

Miniature Mass Radiography: Special report attached.

The visit of the Bristol Unit to Street was a great success. The numbers from the Urban District would have been doubled had it been possible to extend the time allotted.(5 days).

The problem of the care of elderly people has become more acute and the greater the housing shortage the more urgent the problem.

I am, Mr. Chairman,Mrs.Hawker & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. C. EGLINTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1946.

Population - The estimated population for 1946 was 4,999.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

	1946.	1945.
The number of births, including 4 illegitimate births was	77	74
giving a birth rate per 1000 of the estimated civilian population of	15.4	15.04
the birth rate for ENGLAND and WALES being	19.1	16.1
The number of deaths was	51	36
giving a death rate per 1000 of the estimated civilian population of	10.20	10.77
the death rate for ENGLAND and WALES being	11.5	11. 4
The number of deaths of infants under one year was	2	2
giving an Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births of	25.97	27.12
the Infant Mortality Rate for ENGLAND and WALES being	43	46.0
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary).	2	1
(Non Pulmonary).	-	-

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Pneumonia.	5	6
Diphtheria. (Carrier).	1	2
Erysipelas.	1	2
Measles.	4	244
Scarlet Fever.	8	10
Whooping Cough.	39	10

No cases of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary.	5	2
Non Pulmonary.	-	1
Tuberculosis number of cases on register December 31st.	20	18
Pulmonary.	11	9
Non Pulmonary.	9	9

CHILD WELFARE & MATERNITY.

The Child Welfare Association and the Nursing Association have once again maintained their high standard of efficiency being of great benefit to the community.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday at Hindhayes School. I have continued to attend as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays.

In addition to the infants a good proportion of toddlers (aged 1-5) attend. This has proved to be of great value in providing additional supervision and giving any necessary advice and help.

The Centre has continued to help administer the Government Schemes of Distribution. Cod Liver Oil, Fruit Juices, etc., etc.,

The importance of Diphtheria Prophylaxis has continually been stressed and sessions for the immunisation of the children have been

arranged under the County Council - the responsible authority.

The necessity for additional suitable accommodation remains of paramount importance, particularly as the Centre caters for mothers and children attending from nearby villages, assists in their transport costs, and wishes to develop this phase of work for which there is great scope and need. Voluntary helpers and workers with their committees carry out their self imposed duties with efficiency and enthusiasm.

The District Nurses in Street - three in number - attend the clinic from time to time; in connection with their duties under the Nursing Association, it is noted that they made 7218 nursing visits during the year, attending 26 school inspections, and 259 cases. I cannot speak too highly of the efficiency of their work and their devotion to duty.

Non Residential Nursery: (40 in number). There is a non residential nursery in Street housed in part of the premises of Hindhayes School and formerly used by the Infant Welfare Centre. Children 0-5 years of age are admitted, the County Council being the responsible authority.

INFESTATION.

There were a few cases of Scabies which were successfully dealt with in their own homes. Occasion did not arise whereby it became necessary to invoke the powers conferred on Local Authorities under the Scabies Order.

WATER, HOUSING, FACTORIES, etc.,

Mr. R. .Herring, Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer, reports as follows:-

Factories: Up to and including 1946. Inspections made by H.M.Inspector and particulars of defects submitted to the Council for action. Inspections made of premises by the Officers, and assurance given to H.M.Inspector that necessary work has been carried out.

WATER SUPPLY.

Extensions or Improvements during year.
No internal extensions but bulk supply afforded to parish of Walton within Wells Rural District.

Shortage experienced - None.
Post War proposals given in Priority Groups,parishes or villages concerned and estimated cost 1946 prices.
Consideration being given to supply of water in bulk to parish of Moorc within Wells Rural District. Consulting Engineers considering whole of system, mains, etc.
Sewage Disposal. Extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during year. Nil.
Post War proposals - Priority Group 1, villages concerned,estimated cost (1946) prices. Nil.

HOUSING.

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of year: 180
Houses in course of erection (a) Local Authority.)Parlour type). 8
Average cost £1200 per house - Rent £1 inclusive.
(b) Private Enterprise. 2
Average cost £1200 per house.
Programme of new houses to be erected by Local Authority:-
First Year - 8. Second year - 38.
Final housing. 250 houses but programme for 3rd, 4th and 5th years, not known until Zonal Conference.
Existing Houses: Overcrowding accentuated by return of married families to parents' homes. Also influx of approximately 50 families (squatters) occupying vacated military camp sites.

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Special Report.

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

In April the County Medical Officer arranged for a visit of the Bristol Unit to Street, this being the first occasion in Somerset.

It was primarily intended for the detection and care of early cases of Tuberculosis amongst factory, clerical and other workers in Street and the immediate area around Street, It became possible however to fill vacancies - which arose - with school children and others from the Urban District. The Unit stayed for 5 days and if it had been possible for it to have remained longer, the numbers from the Urban District could have been doubled, so great was the interest taken in the scheme. All the arrangements for housing and operating the Unit were made by C.&.J.Clark Limited; the time table (in conjunction with Miss B.N.Spear of C.&.J.Clark) the transport arrangements, etc. were arranged and administered by the Urban District Council on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of cases arranged for and examined in the five days, was 2330, being an average of 466 per day (usual average being 450 a day) of which 1557 related to the Urban District of Street. This number included men and women working in Street or living in Street and working elsewhere, and school children attending Street schools. Of 1557 examined, 44 were recalled for further examination by full size film and of these four adult cases of Tuberculosis were detected.

May I place on record the co-operation of Messrs.C.&.J.Clark, the efficiency and courtesy of the members of the Unit, and the invaluable help of the Staff of the Urban District Council.

STATISTICS - MINIATURES.

Number of men working in Street Industries (including Street schools).		716
" " " " elsewhere but who live in Street.		81
" " women " in Street Industries (including Street schools).		635
" " " " elsewhere but who live in Street.		125
	Total	1557

LARGE FILMS.

" " Men " Street Industries (including Street schools).		18
" " " " elsewhere but living in Street.		10
" " Women " in Street Industries (including Street schools).		12
" " " " elsewhere but living in Street.		4
	Total.	44

Total Recalls - 81 - of which 80 turned up.

STREET - cases notified as a result of investigation - 4 adults - one of which was an old case. (no children).